

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 10 are amended and claims 11-13 are newly added. This amendment is supported by the specification at least from Fig. 2C and paragraphs [0033] - [0038]. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Mayekar at the telephone interview held on July 23, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification for allegedly omitting the continuing data on the first page of the specification.

By this Amendment, the continuing data consistent with the Application Data Sheet and the Declaration that were submitted with the application is added to the first page. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

II. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed during the interview, claims 1 and 2 are amended to replace the term "plate-like" with "plate-shaped" for further clarity. Claim 1 is further amended to delete the phrase "upon application of voltage between the unit electrodes" from the preamble to avoid confusing redundancy. As suggested by the Examiner during the interview, claim 1 is also amended to replace "generating plasma" with "generating the plasma."

Moreover, claim 2 is amended to replace "a basic unit electrode" with "the basic unit," which has its antecedent basis from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 2 is amended to recite "as an

external shape of the basic unit" instead "as an external shape of the basic unit electrode" for further clarity. The term "the basic unit" is also consistently used in claims 3 and 4.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

III. Rejections of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,979,892); claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Li; claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Li in view of Nelson (U.S. Patent No. 6,821,493). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite a plurality of conductive film through-holes formed on the conductive film. Li and Nelson, either alone or combined, do not disclose or render obvious at least this feature.

In comparison, the present application teaches that having conductive film through-holes on a conductive film enables the present plasma generating electrode to purify exhaust gas such as NO_x, HC, and CO while avoiding the local point discharge to occur between a pair of electrodes (see Fig. 2C and paragraphs [0033] - [0038] of the present application). This is a remarkable and unexpected effect. Neither Li nor Nelson disclose any fact to render obvious a plurality of conductive film through-holes formed on the conductive film, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, and are therefore also allowable by virtue of their dependence, as well as for the features that they recite.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 5, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and claims 2-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

IV. New Claims

New claims 11-13 depend from claim 1, and are therefore also allowable by virtue of their dependence, as well as for the features that they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 11-13.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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